

CIA-02 (Carter, Marshall S)

Gen. Taylor, Maxwell D (Gen)

Gen. Wheeler, Earle J

Gen. Westmoreland, G.M. (Gen)

Gen. Harkins, Paul D. (Gen)

S. Vietnam

Top Team for Asia To Be Led by Taylor

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Other High Aides to Join U. S. Effort

By RICHARD FRYKLUND
Star Staff Writer

President Johnson is building an all-star diplomatic team in Viet Nam to run the rescue operation for Southeast Asia.

The surprise selection yesterday of the topmost American general and a senior State Department official to head the mission is only the start, according to Government sources.

Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, now chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Johnson-Lodge Letters and Presidential Statement on Page A-8.

Personality Profiles of Gen. Taylor And Alexis Johnson, Page A-4.

Staff, and named yesterday by President Johnson to replace Henry Cabot Lodge as Ambassador to South Viet Nam, and U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, who will be "Deputy Ambassador," have full power to select any senior official to round out a team of diplomatic, military, economic and psychological warriors.

AID Officials Considered

Both David E. Bell, director of the Agency for International Development, and his deputy, William S. Gaud, are already under consideration for Saigon.

Members of the team will be selected—as were Gen. Taylor and Mr. Johnson—not only for their familiarity with the scene but also for their impact on American friends and foes.

The search for prominent names for the Saigon team carried even to cabinet officers. Secretary of Defense McNamara and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy were considered and both reportedly were willing to serve.

President Johnson wants to prove as dramatically as possible that he will take even the most unorthodox and vigorous steps to make American support of Southeast Asian independence work.

Unorthodox Selections Expected

Similar unorthodoxy, incidentally, will be seen in the selection of the men to build the new vacancies in the Army, created by the move of Gen. Taylor to Viet Nam and the selection, also announced yesterday, of Army Chief of Staff Earle G. Wheeler to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The President is expected to dip low into the list of senior generals for a new Army chief and vice chief of staff to replace Gen. Barksdale Hamlett, who suffered a heart attack recently and has already notified his superiors of his resignation as Gen. Taylor's deputy.

Normally a topmost general is moved up, but Secretary of Defense McNamara and Presidents Kennedy and Johnson have believed in looking well down the list for top talent.

With this philosophy, all of the 12 four-star Army generals may be eliminated as too old, too ill or too valuable in their present commands.

The new chief and vice chief could be selected from a group made up of three-star generals such as William W. Quinn, commanding general of the 7th Army in Europe; Marshall S. Carter, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency; John H. Michaelis, commanding general of allied land forces in Southeast Europe; James K. Woolnough, deputy commander-in-chief of the Army in the Pacific, and Creighton Abrams, 5th Corps commander in Germany.

The Taylor team in Saigon will continue the Kennedy-Johnson approach to Southeast Asian defense—only with more

Architect of Program

Gen. Taylor is the architect of the co-ordinated military-political-economic program now under way.

Soon after the start of the Kennedy administration, when South Viet Nam seemed in danger of quick collapse, Gen. Taylor made a special trip for the President to see if South Viet Nam could be rescued or should be written off.

He urged an intensive American aid program and drew up a three-year plan for "victory."

Under this plan the South Viet Nameese would be in a position to take over their own defense and economic build-up next year and all but a few hundred American advisers would go home.

Timetable Abandoned

The timetable was abandoned after the triple change in government during the past year which threw the administration of the country into near chaos.

President Johnson still believes, however, that the basic Taylor approach can win in the long run. If it does not begin to pay off this year, however, he is ready to expand the war—permitting greatest direct American participation and possible extension of the war into North Viet Nam.

Militarily, Viet Nam and Thailand are a single command under Lt. Gen. William C. Westmoreland, who has just replaced retiring Gen. Paul D. Harkins in Saigon.

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